

CLEAN COPY OF REPLACEMENT CLAIMSIN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (amended) A fiber optic cable, comprising:
a tube defining an interior passage therein;
an optical ribbon disposed in the interior passage of the tube, the optical ribbon comprising a plurality of generally parallel optical fibers arranged in a generally planar array and bound together by a covering of a matrix material surrounding said generally planar array, the optical ribbon having at least a first colored region and a second colored region, wherein the first and second colored regions respectively denote first and second characters of at least a two-character identifier for the optical ribbon serving to indicate an optical ribbon number.

2. (amended) The fiber optic cable of claim 1, further comprising another of the colored region having a color selected to denote a type of the optical fibers contained in the optical ribbon.

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5. (amended) The fiber optic cable of claim 1, wherein the at least two-character identifier for the optical ribbon comprises at least first, second, third, and fourth colored regions of different colors, the first, second, and third colored regions serving to distinguish the optical ribbon from other optical ribbons and the fourth colored region denoting the type of the optical fibers contained in the optical ribbon.

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8. (amended) The fiber optic cable of claim 7, wherein the stripes extend continuously lengthwise along the optical ribbon.

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13. (amended) The fiber optic cable of claim 1, further comprising a third colored region, the third colored region serving to indicate whether the optical fibers of the optical ribbon are single-mode or multi-mode optical fibers.

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14. (amended) An optical ribbon, comprising:
a plurality of optical fibers arranged generally parallel to one another in a generally planar array; and

a covering of a matrix material surrounding said generally planar array so as to cover and bind together the optical fibers, wherein the optical ribbon has an identifier visible at an outer surface of the matrix material, the identifier comprising at least two colored regions of different colors conveying identifying information about the optical ribbon, wherein at least one of the colored regions has a color selected to denote an identifying number pre-assigned to the optical ribbon and another of the colored regions has a color selected to indicate a type of the optical fibers contained in the optical ribbon.

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29. (amended) A method for making an optical ribbon, comprising:
arranging a plurality of optical fibers generally parallel to one another in a generally planar array;

extruding a covering of matrix material over the generally planar array of optical fibers to cover and bind the fibers together; and

applying a series of colored regions to one side of the covering, the colored regions being in a predetermined arrangement visible at an outer surface of the covering, for conveying identifying information about a predetermined location of the optical ribbon in an optical ribbon stack.

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37. (amended) An optical ribbon, comprising:

a plurality of optical fibers arranged generally parallel to one another in a generally planar array, the optical fibers including at least one adjacent pair of optical fibers bound together by a connecting matrix material, the connecting matrix material being of a predetermined color for identifying said pair of optical fibers and covering less than all of the adjacent pair

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of optical fibers; and

an outer matrix covering that encapsulates and binds together the optical fibers, the outer matrix covering being sufficiently transparent that the color of the connecting matrix material is visible through the outer matrix covering.

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